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AMERICAN SOCIALIST

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We are moving forward! Our strength is beginning to show itself in this campaign. We need no greater evidence of this than that the big capitalist news agencies have promised to give the Socialist Party a "fair and square" deal this year. They have been forced to come across. The usual straw votes being taken and the canvasses being made by the capitalist press indicate that the socialist vote will be more than double that of four years ago. We are moving forward against the capitalist trenches. Comrades! Are you in the fighting army of labor this year, or are you a shirker or a deserter? Answer by your actions!

Stinging Speech By Benson At Des Moines, Ia., Forces Big News Trust To Action

Here's the report of the speech by Allan L. Benson, our presidential candidate, as it appeared in The Des Moines Register. It was this speech that forced the Associated Press, the big news trust, referred to by Benson as the "painted lady," to promise to send 350 words over its wires each night on the progress of the Socialist presidential tour. Benson promises to hammer away at the capitalist press and capitalist news associations. But you can help him by getting after your local paper. Find out why it doesn't publish news of the great Socialist campaign this year.

(From The Des Moines, Ia., Register)

SOCIALIST LEADER BITTERLY ASSAILED BOTH OLD PARTIES

Presidential Candidate Makes
Stirring Appeal to Large
Audience at Auditorium.

SWATS THE DAILY PRESS

Challenges The Register, Declaring It Dare Not Print
His Utterances.

RIPS UP MILITARY PLANS

Unsparing in Criticism of Wilson and Hughes and Other
Old Party Leaders.

By REESE STUART, JR.

Allan L. Benson of Yonkers, N. Y., socialist candidate for president of the United States, in addressing at the Auditorium last night an audience composed of members of his party and a number of other parties threw out a challenge to The Register to print what he said of the republican party and others, a challenge which he reiterated at frequent intervals throughout his address.

Mr. Benson declared that he had charge to present against both the democratic and republican candidates for the office to which he himself aspires which, if known to the American people, would prevent the re-election of President Wilson or the election of Charles E. Hughes.

A Conspiracy of Silence.

He declared also that there was a conspiracy of silence on the part of The Associated Press, to which he referred as a "painted lady," and the newspapers to prevent the people's knowing what these charges are, that he is speaking practically every day and will continue to speak every day until the election, but that The Associated Press carries no account of his speeches while it is sending thru the country 500 words a day on the speeches of Hanly, prohibition candidate for president, and that his own party has not only cast a much larger vote than the prohibition party in the last two elections but increased over 100 per cent in 1912 while the prohibition vote was smaller than in 1908. He predicted that he would poll over 2,000,000 votes this year as against something over 900,000 in 1912.

Hanly's Mission and Benson's.

"And Mr. Hanly's purpose is to prevent your bodies being filled with whisky, while my purpose is to prevent your bodies being filled with lead," he declared, before launching upon the most scorching denunciation of the military and naval appropriations of the recent congress that Des Moines has ever heard.

"I never expect fair treatment," he said. "There is a reporter for a Des Moines paper sitting in the wings of this stage now. If that paper prints what I shall say and what I know and the reporter knows to be news, it is on the square. I name that paper now, Look for The Des Moines Register in the morning."

"I charge that the democratic administration has enacted a law that permits the president to draft into the army, in time of military needs, every man in this country between the ages of 18 and 45 years who is in good health. That clause was smuggled into the Hay-Chamberlain army reorganization bill and it was done with the approval of President Wilson."

Another One For The Reporter.

Mr. Benson addressed the reporter again in giving a reference to the Congressional Record of August 25, 1916, wherein Congressman Hay is quoted as declaring that it made no difference "to the president" whether the word used were "call" or "draft." Mr. Hay's defense was in reply to objections offered by another congressman who objected to the change after having voted for the bill as it passed, and without having been aware of the change.

On March 23, with another reference by the speaker to the Congressional Record of that date, Mr. Hay replied to Congressman Miller of Minnesota, who had objected to the word "draft" as it applied to drafting entire regiments of the national guard into the regular army, and had asked why the word "order" might not be substituted, that the word "order" had not the same legal significance as the word "draft" and would not mean the same thing in a bill.

Statements Won't Hitch.

"Mr. Hay can never reconcile his statements of March 23 and those of August 25, try as he may," said Mr. Benson.

If you still think militarism the evil thing that you thought it in 1913-14, you democrats and republicans, how are you going to register your vote against it if you do not vote the socialist ticket this fall?" he asked. He had explained that the democratic administration had turned from its attitude of 1913 and had voted unprecedented appropriations for military preparedness which, large as they were, still did not satisfy the republicans.

"When they say that 'some nation will attack us after the war and bite off a piece of the Atlantic coast to hold for ransom' they mean Germany and they might as well admit it," he declared.

Big Business Knows.

But that story is so ridiculous that Wilson told congress in December, 1914, that the war need not cause us to increase appropriations for preparedness. Secretary Daniels also said that we were in no danger. But if you do not know why Wilson changed his mind and why the rest of the administration changed its mind, big business knows the reason."

Mr. Benson urged his audience to look in The Register this morning to see if it published the reason he was about to give. Here is the reason Mr. Benson gave.

America has taken over all of the foreign commerce and has now a foreign trade which makes this country the second maritime nation in the world and is building boats to carry it as it never built before. Big business knows that when the war is over Europe will want to get back this commerce. Legislative and diplomatic pressure will be applied to hold the commerce here, but when these means fail force will be applied and big business wants to be in a position to say: "Stand off and let us alone." That is the "why" of these military and naval appropriations.

Reply To Trade Boast.

In response to the administration's boasts of the enormity of the present foreign commerce of the United States Mr. Benson asked his hearers as laboring men to consider whether the enormous foreign trade of Great Britain had ever alleviated conditions for labor in that country.

In taking up a brief discussion of the democratic and republican candidates for president Mr. Benson put them both in the same class as candidates of the Wall street crowd.

Hughes declared to be Rockefeller's choice and Wilson, Morgan's.

He pictured Hughes starting as a corporation lawyer in New York, later starting his social relations with Rockefeler while teaching a class in the oil magnate's Sunday school, and still later being seen walking with him on the street. He made brief reference on the veto of the 2 cent fare and other of Hughes' acts.

"He does not do that any more, at least not in the daytime," he said.

Wilson's Connection.

Wilson's connection with Morgan was traced thru Secretary McAdoo, who secured from Morgan the money to finance the Hudson tubes. He spoke of the change of front by the president on lending government recognition to Morgan's loans to China and to the allies and presented these facts as illustrative of the value to big business of having a friend in the White House.

His denunciation of Wilson's "attempts to curry favor with labor" was vigorous. He quoted Wilson as having said that "we must hearten and quicken the spirit of labor by doing justice to the laborer, not only by paying him a living wage but by making all conditions surrounding labor as good as they ought to be."

"Can you beat that for generality?" he asked.

Plea Of Socialists.

"We ask you all to help restore America to Americans, not only to those who have been born in this country but to all who are working faithfully to be good citizens, good fathers and good men," he said in conclusion.

THEY SURRENDER!

By J. L. ENGDAHL.

THE Associated Press, the nation's biggest news distributing association, has surrendered.

The United Press, the nation's second largest news distributing association, has also capitulated.

They have both promised to handle the news of the Socialist campaign this year "fairly and squarely" from now on. We put no faith in promises. So we expect the comrades throughout the nation to be on the job to see that they make good.

* * * *

NOTHING UNUSUAL.

IT WAS evident from the start of this year's presidential struggle that the capitalist news associations, and the capitalist press generally, intended ignoring all the news of the Socialist campaign.

This was not unusual. It has happened in every campaign. It happens every day. The capitalist press, inspired and controlled by the big business interests of the country, either suppress entirely or twist to suit themselves, the news of working class activity, especially the news of working class progress.

* * * *

CAMPAIGN BIGGER THAN EVER.

THIS YEAR the Socialist campaign is bigger, more effective, more powerful than ever. Two million leaflets each week, in a ten week series, are being distributed over the nation. This does not include the millions of other leaflets sent out from the national campaign headquarters, in addition to the literature being published by state, county and local campaign committees.

Allan L. Benson, our presidential candidate, and George R. Kirkpatrick, our vice presidential candidate, are speaking to larger and more enthusiastic audiences than ever before. Daily the campaign swells to new gigantic proportions.

* * * *

SILENCE EVERYWHERE.

YET everywhere in the ranks of the capitalist press, with only a few exceptions, all was silence. Some of the weekly and monthly magazines, like the Review of Reviews, Current Literature, and a few others took note of the fact that the Socialists had really nominated a national ticket.

* * * *

EXCITED OVER LIQUOR.

In the meantime the Associated Press got excited about the Prohibition candidate, Mr. Hanly, who repudiated most of his party's platform. The "A. P." sent a staff correspondent along with the prohibition candidate. Extended notices of the progress of the Prohibition campaign were sent out daily to the capitalist press. And the reports were published.

Do the big interests believe that they can turn the workers aside from the real issues in this campaign and embroil them in a fake fight over the liquor question? Do the plutes really believe they can split the ranks of the toilers this year into contending wet and dry factions? If so, they have a rude awakening awaiting them. The working class this year is not going to get excited over the liquor question, nor will it be led astray by any free liquor provided by the old parties.

* * * *

BENSON AROUSED.

IT WAS this very evident discrimination against the Socialist campaign that stirred the fighting blood of our presidential candidate, Allan L. Benson. Night after night, starting at Des Moines, Iowa, Benson assailed the capitalist news associations and the capitalist press, daring them to publish the truth so that the American people might learn the truth about the real issues in this campaign.

At Des Moines, Iowa, he pilloried The Des Moines Register, the largest local capitalist publication, before an audience of several thousand and enthusiastic listeners. Benson urged everyone within the reach of his voice to look for a report of the meeting in The Register next morning. The reporter went back to his office and told the editor what Benson had said, and the editor, fearing an immediate shrinkage in his subscription list ordered the reporter to write a "fair" report of the meeting. The story as it appeared in "The Register" the next morning appears on this page. This fight by Benson against the silence of the organs of the plutocracy was repeated in every city in which he appeared. When he passed thru Chicago this week and visited the national campaign headquarters on his way from St. Louis to Indianapolis, Benson was in a real fighting mood and promised to keep up a running fire on the entrenched mouthpieces of capitalism.

* * * *

HIT BY TWO MILLION LEAFLETS.

THEN Benson let loose in "Leaflet No. 5," two million copies of which were published in the attack on this capitalist censorship. The contents of this leaflet were published in The

Swat the war agitator with a Socialist ballot.

Kirk's question has been answered.

War is for boodle.

The workers make everything, but the capitalists take it.

Capitalism feeds the man who is hungry, on taffy.

The capitalist campaign needs a disinfectant.

If the worker breaks a tool he may lose his job. But if he breaks his neck the employer loses nothing.

The corporations not only own the tools of production but also the political tools.

Every time you vote an old party ticket, you vote merely on who shall superintend your own exploitation.

A movement that doesn't move gets nowhere. A man who does nothing for the race does nothing for himself.

How can Socialism take anything from you, when you haven't got it? Capitalism has been there first.

The old partyite has learned better than to argue socialism. He merely tries to look superior, like a monkey.

The landlord is as surely a lord as the his title was conferred by a king—and it was.

There is a difference between law and justice. The workers have enough law now, but no justice.

If labor creates capital, why does not labor own it and use it for its benefit?

The Republican party seems to have forgotten the "dignity which forbade McKinley touring the country in a vulgar search for votes".

Capitalism pensions workers for killing other workers. Socialism will pension workers for making it possible for all workers to live.

The Hons. have at last gone home, and will be kept busy boasting of how they passed the eight hour law and explaining why they did it.

If Mr. Roosevelt is uncorked it looks like Hughes stands a poorer chance of victory than the Maine vote indicates.

Since labor and capital have been "harmonized" it does look like they might quit striking until after election.

The strike may boost wages, but it can't prevent there being a raise in the cost of living that absorbs the wages paid.

By the time the old party voters can decide on just what is a fair price, his pockets will be empty and he will pass to a pauper's grave.

This country is inhabited by two families, Too Much and Too Little. Guess which one is the more numerous.

The principle of arbitration is a sacred thing, because it compels the capitalist to remain a slave because a few arbitrators says he shall.

The reformer is great on swatting effects. But the cause behind the effects always comes up smiling after every apparent knock out blow.

If the capitalists have reduced the cost of production thru using big machinery, why is it that they have raised the price of the products?

If the government can make its bonds good by law, without a reserve behind them, why can't it make its money good in the same way?

Hughes and Wilson are both satisfied to the plutocrats. The rest will simply be "bull" for the purpose of jollying the sillies.

It is Benson who gets the crowds. Wouldn't Hughes or Wilson be glad to address a million and a half every week till election, like Benson does?

Wilson kept us out of war—by invading Mexico twice and spending more for preparedness in one year than any nation on the face of the earth ever did before.

In the olden days the king's son succeeded him but we rebelled against that. In this day the capitalist's son inherits his power and we say that is right.

Won't Oklahoma and Nevada look nice when they appear garbed all in red the day after the election? And won't Debs in congress give them a hearty welcome?

Strange that the first United States senator to be elected by the Socialists should bear the name Grant. You can't hold a man to the past by naming him for a hero that is dead.

Where is the progressive now that he thinks he has your attention? Trying to fool you into one of the old parties and political suicide of course. That was all he was for in the first place.

Counting on the birth of a new crop of suckers the torchlight procession paid for by those who expect to profit from the election has been revised. All the worker's expected to do is to carry the torch by night and carry the burdens the rest of the time.

The common people have produced the greatest tragedy of the ages—the infinitely sorrowful tragedy of ignorance.

OUR TICKET THIS YEAR

For President
ALLAN L. BENSON
For Vice-President
GEORGE R. KIRKPATRICK

SENTRY PRINTING COMPANY 304

MAKE EVERY SOCIALIST VOTER AN AMERICAN SOCIALIST READER

GOING UP!

Another jump in the subscription list of The American Socialist puts the number of our subscribers this week at

56,711

An extraordinary effort this week will push it right over the 60,000 mark. We can do it easily.

Big forces are now at work pushing up the subscription list. Many of the Benson and Kirkpatrick speaking dates have been taken on a subscription basis. Every man and woman hearing Benson or Kirkpatrick continues receiving his education in Socialism for six months after the meeting from The American Socialist.

Then the comrades are sending in 15 week and 10 weeks subs. They intend that The American Socialist shall be read after election as well as before election.

Big lists of names are now coming in every day on our final campaign offer—The American Socialist for five weeks for five cents. All of these five week subs will be started with the issue of Saturday, Oct. 7. This will be the first of five issues, the last one dated Sunday, Nov. 4, the Saturday before election day.

You have only a few days left to get these five week subs to the office of The American Socialist, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago.

ROLL OF HONOR

Walter M. Cook, Georgia state organizer, sends in 14 five week subs taken at a street meeting. Comrade G. W. Miller writes, "The sentiment for Socialism in Georgia is great. The membership is growing. The American Socialist is our favorite whether we are doing much sub selling or not. I believe this list will come out as members."

George R. L. Goodwin sends in the names of 20 Dubois Five Week Club. He is going to wake them up with five week subs.

One of our big lists of five week subs comes from Comrade L. B. Avery, of Alderson, Pa. He sends \$15 to cover 300 names. There'll be something doing for Socialism in Alderson.

Three good looking lists come from Minnesota. One is from Comrade O. J. Aaseth of Echo Park, 100 names; the second from Comrade Fred Dahlberg, of Sandstone, containing 40 names, and the third from Comrade F. M. Malzahn, of Remidji, also containing 40 names.

"I am glad to see that our paper has a cause in its heart," writes Comrade F. W. Hensel, of Richmond, Va. "Pictures talk to everybody and a good, hard hitting cartoon goes a long way."

"This is what the comrades of Local Camp have done for the campaign," writes Comrade A. E. Allard, of Colorado City, who sends in 81 ten week subs, two forty week subs and one yearly subscription to The American Socialist.

Comrade V. M. Reynolds, chairman of the Alabama state committee, sends in 100 ten week subs from Fairhope, Ala.

Fifty of those ten week subs come from Comrade J. W. Adams, of Waverly, New York.

One of our biggest lists comes from Colinsville, Ill. It is for 206 ten week subs.

AMERICA FIRST.

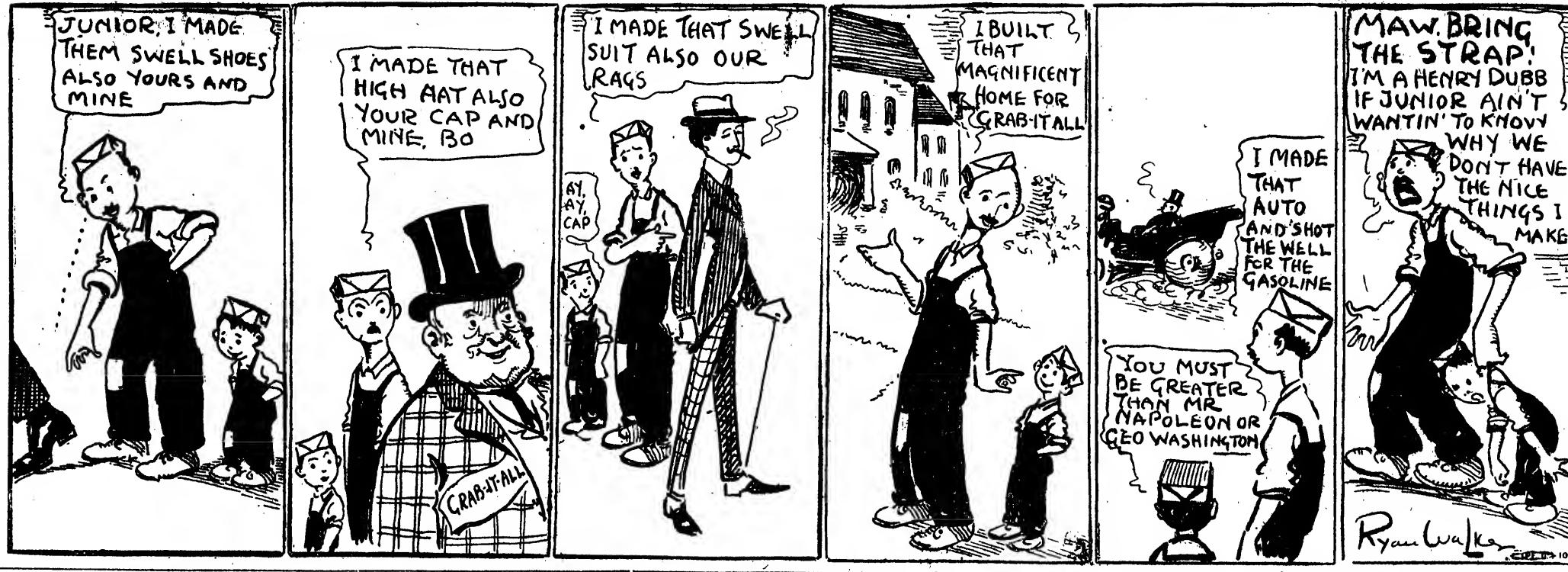
Government statistics show that the trusts and corporations are first and that the people are last.

That 90 per cent of men are flat broke at 60 years of age, living day by day, or supported by their children.

That 95 per cent of business men do not make a success in life.

Forty-five capitalists receive over

Henry Dubb's Object Lesson Was O. K. Until Junior Asked A Question



BY RYAN WALKER.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States.

J. L. ENGAHLEditor

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1916.

Do you expect to win victories by standing around with your hands in your pockets doing nothing but grumble at those who do work?

There are 4,500 locals of the Socialist Party in the United States that haven't ordered a single Benson leaflet yet.

Get into the last five weeks drive. Send in your order before Sept. 27.

The real patriot wants to live for his country, not die for it.

SHERBET SCOFFMAN'S PAGE

WEALTH WITHIN YOUR REACH—GRASP IT!

By WILLIS ANDREWS.

Ageons were consumed in building the pyramids. Hundreds of years were required to teach Solomon wisdom.

All that is changed now. Skyscrapers are reared in a day and toddling infants now tutor aged parents.

Stock jobbing and robbing create fortunes in the twinkling of an eye. Does and hewers are back numbers. Get wealth by stealth. Cinch the goods now—never mind how.

Workers dawdle their time away making, instead of taking. Only the old continue to plot.

Socialists give promise to the man who works, instead of rewarding the man who shirks.

But that would rob pates of perpetual rest, and take from their lives all color and zest.

None but the bold ever get the gold. The meek but seldom seek.

Waiting for the morrow will only bring you sorrow.

Croesus looked like a man in the bread line compared with Astor, who bought Manhattan for a muskrat skin. There are plenty more muskrats in the swamps of Jersey; catch 'em, and buy sites of future great cities.

If this you simply will not do, the future you shall surely rue.

By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them

By JOHN M. WORK.

HEY say that we Socialists intrude our views upon other people. Well, maybe we do sometimes. But we just can't help it. We know we are right, and we know the other fellow is asleep, so we feel it to be our duty to wake him up and put him on the right track.

When the stolid lover, Christian, in Cyrano de Bergerac, proposed to Roxanna, he merely blurted out, "I love you!"

The girl waited patiently for the rest, but when it did not come she tapped her dainty foot impatiently and said, "Yes, that's the theme, but—embroider it!"

A passionate lover does not need to be told to embroider it. He can't help doing so. It is only the cold half-hearted lover who has to be told.

The Socialist is passionately in love with Socialism. He cannot help trying to spread the truth. He is so full of it that if it did not find some outlet he would surely explode.

When you find a Socialist who never says anything about Socialism, takes little interest in the movement, seldom attends a meeting, and rarely takes a hand in the propaganda work, you can be sure that he is not much of a Socialist.

He is like the stolid half-hearted lover in the play.

IN THE WORLD OF LABOR.

By Max S. Hayes.

T IS all guess work in trying to reach a safe conclusion respecting the granting of an eight-hour day to the railway employees.

It is true Congress enacted a law granting eight hours to railway workers, but the legal department of the various railroads are already engaged in mapping out plans to test the constitutionality of the new law and it may take a long time before the issue is finally settled.

It is not only improbable that the corporations will institute eight-hour shifts on Dec. 1, but it is unlikely that they will even grant 10 hours' pay for eight hours' work on that date, as provided in the Adamson law.

We hold to our original view that when the railway employees withdraw the penalty clause for overtime work, at the behest of President Wilson and influential members of Congress, the brotherhood officials struck a vital blow at their own cause.

Experience proves that an eight-hour day becomes farcical where an excess of 50 per cent is not exacted for time worked over eight hours. Such has been the result in manufacturing plants and the violation of the eight-hour principle will be still more glaring in railroading.

It looks as though the railwaymen have been whipsawed again by legal sharpshirts and politicians who try to carry water on both shoulders.

We hope we are wrong, but facts are pretty stubborn things.

THE BRITISH Trade Union Congress just held was the most important labor gathering that ever assembled in the history of the nation. The convention re-affirmed the principle of the eight-hour day in all trades, with a minimum adult wage of \$7.50 a week, recognition of the

EVERY LIBRARY SHOULD CONTAIN SUGGESTIONS FOR A PERMANENT PEACE

By a Swiss officer. Perfectly neutral.

ART ONCE AGAIN

Why have we the European war?

Why did the Teutons march to Belgium?

Who was the winner at the end of 1915?

PART TWO:

How can war be fought more effectively without the use of arms?

How can Militarism and Navalism be suppressed?

How can the map of Europe be readjusted?

How can the Atlantic war loans and a war indemnity be met without drawing on any man's purse?

REMEDY.

The U. S. Commission on Industrial Relations recommends "That the private ownership of public utilities be abolished."

VOTE FOR SOCIALISM.

3458 Elaine Place, Chicago.

unions by the employers, and payment of unemployed men and women by the State. The congress instructed its Parliamentary committee to prepare a manifesto showing that reconstruction after the war depends on education, abolition of sweatshop conditions, demolition of unsanitary areas, and abolition of all monopolies.

The congress adopted a resolution in favor of a Minister of Labor with power to control and organize the health of workers, housing, agriculture and food supplies, along with national control of land, State ownership of railways, waterways, mines and war plants. The congress also adopted resolutions demanding adequate old age pensions and exemption of such benefits from taxation, and repudiated the charge of David Lloyd George that organized labor had not done its duty to the country during the war. It was pointed out that 90 per cent of the soldiers in the trenches were workingmen. The congress rejected the idea of a trade war against the central powers after the present war. The speakers declared that organized labor of Great Britain had not gone into the war to punish the German nation, but to abolish all wars in the future. The delegates went on record against industrial conscription which would send soldiers into factories and shops on different terms than civilian workers.

One of the most startling announcements of the congress was a resolution declaring in favor of a protective tariff.

• • •

THERE were over 200,000 working people on strike in the United States during August, according to the Department of Labor at Washington. There were about 50 strikes in New York State, the same number in Pennsylvania, 36 in Massachusetts, 34 in Ohio, 24 in New Jersey and proportionate numbers in other industrial States.

• • •

In Switzerland the Socialists are inaugurating a national referendum that will soon come to a vote to compel the military authorities to cease meddling with civic affairs.

For some time the army officers have been usurping power to administer what they call justice over the protest of citizens and elected officials, thus proving that the supposed "democratic military system" of Switzerland is not much, if any, better than the militarism of other countries.

In their very nature democracy and militarism can't mix, no matter how much theorizing may be done by those who attempt to ride steeds going in opposite directions.

The Swiss system is fundamentally nothing else but a compromise, and about all the real protection labor got from it could be balanced on the point of a needle.

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He has reported that he did not only feel that it was a success but a big success and that he believed it to be the best co-operative work he has ever seen. He says he hopes that after the Llano Del Rio community has continued its demonstration of success and thoroughly proved this, that in other parts of the country where climate and soil were right and conditions satisfactory, that similar enterprises will be started by socialists and others of the working class. He lays some emphasis, however, on the necessity of proper climatic conditions and does not believe that co-operative farming could be made a success at this time in parts of the country where there are deep snows and where climatic conditions are such that the workers would have to hibernate a part of the year, thus because of the necessity of agreements for continuous employment and until various independent industries could be established he thinks that climatic conditions should be similar to those at Llano, where almost no time during the whole year is lost by outdoor workers because of inclemency of weather. He believes that until industries are established that an outdoor climate such as that in southern California is the desirable place for attempting colonization. He lays stress on necessity for bountiful supply of water at only the cost of building their own irrigation plant and conservation construction. Especially does he insist that the water should be pure and drinkable.

He approves of the method of financing and has strongly commended the founders and officers of the colony for their plan of conducting the membership department.

He believes that they should stick closely to their present method of insisting upon the full membership fee during the first few years of their operation, as he says he feels that they are on the right track in insisting on being financially sound and conducting their affairs along strongest business lines.

Comrade Huggins has voluntarily written a pamphlet which will be distributed free to those who make application for it. In this he goes into description of his visit to Llano and what he found there. Walter Huggins' visit to Llano was without notice to the officials or any one at the colony. So far as they were concerned he dropped in casually, as do hundreds of other visitors. He was extended the usual courteous treatment and given fullest and freest information, then he returned to Chicago and made a report to his comrades.

Comrade Huggins is so well known throughout the country as a splendid worker in the cause of socialism and co-operatives that thousands of the readers of THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST will recognize in him one of the splendid workers who has devoted almost his entire life to furthering the cause of socialism and co-operation. They know him as a man of unimpeachable honor and sterling integrity and those who know him revere him in the most implicit trust.

Visitors at the Llano Del Rio Co-operative Community, which was founded by Job Harriman in the beautiful Antelope Valley forty miles north

and east of the city of Los Angeles, in southern California, two years and a half ago, are always impressed with the wonderful progress that has been made during that time. Almost invariably they voluntarily state that the printed matter is conservative and does not overstate conditions. There they find between eight hundred and a thousand of their comrades working in great harmony. They find these socialists cultivating thousands of acres of land, carrying out extensive agricultural, horticultural and stock raising enterprises, and that there are nearly fifty industries, including pawn shop, shoe shop, laundry, cannery, cleaning and dyeing, garage, warehouse, machine shop, blacksmith shop, rug works, planing mill, lime kiln, saw mill, dairy, cabinet shop, nursery, alfalfa, orchards, poultry yards, gardens, rabbitry, hog raising, brick yard, lumbering, magazine, newspaper, flour mill, bakery, fish hatchery, transportation, barber shop, dairy goats. Visitors find that in addition to these industries there are many institutions that are almost industries. Among these are baths, swimming pool, studios, hotel, drafting room, post office, commission, camping grounds, industrial school, grammar school, Montessori school, commercial classes, fishing and hunting, library, souvenir club, two weekly dances, menagerie, brass band, mandolin club, orchestras (two), quartets, socialist local, baseball, lectures by visitors, and they discover from plans they see that this list is to be added to every month. They find the artists and architects drawing wonderful plans for the public buildings and the permanent homes in the new city; they find these plans rapidly taking form.

Socialists all over the United States, and in fact in every country where English is spoken and printed, are taking profound interest in the wonderful progress of this remarkable community. You are interested and you want to know more about it. You want to know how to become a member, to get out of the competitive struggle and join a group of the most active and revolutionary socialists in America in

HERE IS THIS YEAR'S SOCIALIST PARTY PLATFORM

After the most intense discussion ever conducted by the membership of the Socialist Party, the 1916 platform has been adopted by party referendum and is published for the first time on this page. It is felt that this is the most historic document ever issued by a working class organization in this country. It gives in no mistaken terms the position of the enlightened workers of the country on the big problems now confronting the nation. Five hundred thousand copies of this platform are being printed by the national Socialist Party in leaflet form. These four page leaflets may be secured at 20 cents per hundred; \$1.50 per thousand. Order from: National Office, Socialist Party, 803 West Madison St., Chicago.

N THE midst of the greatest crisis and bloodiest struggle of all history the Socialist Party of America reaffirms its steadfast adherence to the principles of international brotherhood, world peace and industrial democracy.

The great war which has engulfed so much of civilization and destroyed millions of lives is one of the natural results of the capitalist system of production.

The Socialist Party, as the political expression of the economic interests of the working class, calls upon them to take a determined stand on the question of militarism and war, and to recognize the opportunity which the Great War has given them of fighting disarmament and furthering the cause of industrial freedom.

An armed force in the hands of the ruling class serves two purposes: to protect and further the policy of imperialism abroad and to silence by force the protest of the workers against industrial despotism at home. Imperialism and militarism plunged Europe into this world-war. America's geographical and industrial situation has kept her out of the cataclysm. But Europe's extremity has been the opportunity of America's ruling class to amass enormous profits. As a result, there is a surfeit of capital which demands the policy of imperialism to protect and further investments abroad. Hence the frenzy of militarism into which the ruling class has made every attempt to force the United States.

The workers in Europe were helpless to avert the war because they were already saddled with the burden of militarism. The workers in the United States are yet free from this burden and have the opportunity of establishing a working class policy and program against war. They can compel the government of the United States to lead the way in an international movement for disarmament and to abandon the policy of imperialism which is forcing the conquest of Mexico and must, if carried out, eventually plunge the United States into a world-war.

The working class must recognize the cry of preparedness against foreign invasion as a mere cloak for the sinister purpose of imperialism abroad and industrial tyranny at home. The class struggle, like capitalism, is international. The proletariat of the world has but one enemy, the capitalist class, whether at home or abroad. We must refuse to put into the hands of this enemy an armed force even under the guise of a "democratic army," as the workers of Australia and Switzerland have done.

Therefore the Socialist Party stands opposed to military preparedness, to any appropriations of men or money for war or militarism, while control of such forces thru the political state rests in the hands of the capitalist class. The Socialist Party stands committed to the class war, and urges upon the workers in the mines and forests, on the railways and ships, in factories and fields, the use of their economic and industrial power, by refusing to mine the coal, to transport soldiers, to furnish food or other supplies for military purposes, and thus keep out of the hands of the ruling class the control of armed forces and economic power, necessary for aggression abroad and industrial despotism at home.

The working class must recognize militarism as the greatest menace to all efforts toward industrial freedom, and regardless of political or industrial affiliations must present a united front in the fight against preparedness and militarism.

Hideous as they are, the horrors of the

far-stretched battlefield of the old world are dwarfed by the evil results of the capitalist system, even in normal times. Instead of being organized to provide all members of society with an abundance of food, clothing and shelter, and the highest attainable freedom and culture, industry is at present organized and conducted for the benefit of a parasitic class. All the powers of government, and all our industrial genius, are directed to the end of securing to the relatively small class of capitalist investors the largest amount of profits which can be wrung from the labor of the ever-increasing class whose only property is muscle and brain, manual and mental labor power.

The dire consequences of this system are everywhere apparent. The workers are oppressed and deprived of much that makes for physical, mental and moral well-being. Year by year poverty and industrial accidents destroy more lives than all the armies and navies in the world.

To preserve their privilege and power is the most vital interest of the possessing class, while it is the most vital interest of the working class to resist oppression, improve its position, and struggle to obtain security of life and liberty. Hence there exists a conflict of interests, a social war within the nation, which can know neither truce nor compromise. So long as the few own and control the economic life of the nation the many must be enslaved, poverty must coexist with riotous luxury, and civil strife prevail.

The Socialist Party would end these conditions by reorganizing the life of the nation upon the basis of Socialism. Socialism would not abolish private property, but greatly extend it. We believe that every human being should have and own all the things which he can use to advantage, for the enrichment of his own life, without imposing disadvantage or burden upon any other human being. Socialism admits the private ownership and individual direction of all things, tools, economic processes and functions which are individualistic in character, and requires the collective ownership and democratic control and direction of those which are social or collectivistic in character.

We hold that this country cannot enjoy happiness and prosperity at home and maintain lasting peace with other nations, so long as its industrial wealth is monopolized by a capitalist oligarchy. In this, as in every other campaign, all special issues arising from temporary situations, whether domestic or foreign, must be subordinated to the major issue—the need of such a reorganization of our economic life as will remove the land, the mines, forests, railroads, mills and factories, all the things required for our physical existence, from the clutches of industrial and financial freebooters and place them securely and permanently in the hands of the people.

If men were free to labor to satisfy their desires there could be in this country neither poverty nor involuntary unemployment. But the men in this country are not free to labor to satisfy their desires. The great industrial population can labor only when the capitalist class, who own the industries, believe they can market their product at a profit. The needs of millions are subordinated to the greed of a few. The situation is not unlike that of a pyramid balanced upon its apex. Oftentimes this pyramid tumbles and industrial depression comes. There was such a crash in 1907. If the capitalist owners had been willing to get out of the way, industry could have been revived in a day. But the capitalist owners are never willing to get out of the way. Their greed comes first—the people's needs, if at all, afterward. Therefore business did not quickly revive after the industrial depression of 1907. Mr. Taft was elected to bring good times, but in four years failed to bring them. Mr. Wilson was elected to bring good times, but not all of the measures he advocated had the slightest effect upon industry. The European war has brought to this country tremendous orders for military supplies and has created a period of prosperity for the few. For the masses of the people there is but an op-

portunity to work hard for a bare living, which is not prosperity, but slavery. As against the boast of the present national administration that its political program, now fully in force, has brought prosperity to the masses, we call attention to the statement of the Federal Public Health Service that \$800 a year is required to enable a family to avoid physical deterioration thru lack of decent living conditions, that more than half of the families of working men receive less than that amount, that nearly a third receive less than \$500 a year, and that one family in twelve receives less than \$300 a year.

The capitalist class, for a great many years, has been trying to saddle upon this country a greater army and a greater navy. A greater army is desired to keep the working class of the United States in subjection. A greater navy is desired to safeguard the foreign investments of American capitalists and to "back up" American diplomacy in its efforts to gain foreign markets for American capitalists. The war in Europe, which diminished and is still diminishing the remote possibility of European attack upon the United States, was nevertheless seized upon by capitalists and by unscrupulous politicians as a means of spreading fear throughout the country, to the end that, by false pretenses, great military establishments might be obtained. We denounce such "preparedness," as both false in principle, unnecessary in character and dangerous in its plain tendencies toward militarism. We advocate that sort of social preparedness which expresses itself in better homes, better bodies and better minds, which are alike the products of plenty and the necessity of effective defense in war.

The Socialist Party maintains its attitude of unaltered opposition to war.

We reiterate the statement that the competitive nature of capitalism is the cause of modern war, and that the co-operative nature of Socialism is alone adapted to the task of ending war by removing its causes. We assert, however, that, even under the present capitalist order, additional measures can be taken to safeguard peace, and to this end, we demand:

MEASURES TO INSURE PEACE.

- (1) That all laws and appropriations for the increase of the military and naval forces of the United States shall be immediately repealed.

(2) That the power be taken from the President to lead the nation into a position which leaves no escape from war. No one man, however exalted in official station, should have the power to decide the question of peace or war for a nation of a hundred millions. To give one man such power is neither democratic nor safe. Yet the President exercises such power when he determines what shall be the nation's foreign policies and what shall be the nature and tone of its diplomatic intercourse with other nations. We, therefore, demand that the power to fix foreign policies and conduct diplomatic negotiations shall be lodged in the Congress and shall be exercised publicly, the people reserving the right by referendum to order Congress, at any time, to change its foreign policy.

(3) That no war shall be declared or waged by the United States without referendum vote of the entire people, except for the purpose of repelling invasion.

(4) That the Monroe Doctrine shall be immediately abandoned as a danger so great that even its advocates are agreed that it constitutes perhaps our greatest single danger of war. The Monroe Doctrine was originally intended to safeguard the peace of the United States. Tho the Doctrine has changed from a safeguard to a menace, the capitalist class still defends it for the reason that our great capitalists desire to retain South and Central America as their private trade preserve. We favor the cultivation of social, industrial and political friendship with all other nations in the western hemisphere, as an approach to a world confederation of nations, but we oppose the Monroe Doctrine because it takes from our hands the peace of America and places it in the custody of any nation that would attack the sovereignty of any state in the western world.

HELP NATIONAL OFFICE SAVE MONEY AND AVOID MISTAKES.

In this rush period when every minute of the time of the workers in the National Office must be made to count for the most the comrades over the country can be of great assistance to us if they will observe the following suggestions:

If you have anything to say to The American Socialist about sub-cards, change of address, or any other matter pertaining to the paper, write it on a separate sheet that contains nothing else.

If you have anything to say about Benson leaflets, say it on another separate sheet that contains nothing else.

If you want Dime banks or information regarding speakers, put that on a sheet for Comrade Sherover.

If you want general information or have something to say to the Executive Department, put that on still another separate sheet.

You can put all the sheets in one envelope and they will be distributed to their proper places. But it is very difficult to divide one letter among five or six different departments without missing one or two points.

And be sure that you put your full name and address plainly on each separate letter.

(5) That the independence of the Philippine Islands be immediately recognized as a measure of justice both to the Filipinos and to ourselves. The Filipinos are entitled to self-government; we are entitled to be freed from the necessity of building and maintaining enough dreadnaughts to defend them in the event of war.

(6) The government of the United States shall call a congress of all neutral nations to mediate between the belligerent powers in an effort to establish an immediate and lasting peace without indemnities, of forcible annexation of territory, and based on binding and enforceable international treaty, which shall provide for concerted disarmament on land and at sea and for an International Congress with power to adjust all disputes between nations, and which shall guarantee freedom and equal rights to all oppressed nations and races.

WORKING PROGRAM.

As general measures calculated to strengthen in the working class in its fight for the realization of its ultimate aim, the Co-operative Commonwealth, and to increase its power of resistance against capitalist oppression, we advocate and pledge ourselves and our elected officers to the following program:

POLITICAL DEMANDS.

1. Unrestricted and equal suffrage for men and women.

2. The immediate adoption of the so-called "Susan B. Anthony amendment" to the constitution of the United States granting the suffrage to women on equal terms with men.

3. The adoption of the initiative, referendum and recall and of proportional representation, nationally as well as locally.

4. The abolition of the Senate and of the veto power of the President.

5. The election of the President and the Vice-President by direct vote of the people.

6. The abolition of the present restriction upon the amendment of the constitution so that that instrument may be made amendable by a majority of the voters in the country.

7. The calling of a convention for the revision of the constitution of the United States.

8. The abolition of the power usurped by the Supreme Court of the United States to pass upon the constitutionality of legislation enacted by Congress. National laws to be repealed only by act of Congress or by a referendum vote of the whole people.

9. The immediate curbing of the power of the courts to issue injunctions.

10. The election of all judges of the United States for short terms.

11. The free administration of the law.

12. The granting of the right of suffrage in the District of Columbia with representation in Congress and a democratic form of municipal government for purely local affairs.

13. The extension of democratic government to all United States territory.

14. The freedom of press, speech and assembly.

15. The increase of the rates of the present income tax and corporation tax and the extension of inheritance taxes, graduated in proportion to the value of the estate and to nearness of kin—the proceeds of these taxes to be employed in the socialization of industry.

16. The enactment of further measures for general education and particularly for vocational education in useful pursuits. The Bureau of Education to be made a department.

17. The enactment of further measures for the conservation of health and the creation of an independent department of health.

18. The abolition of the monopoly ownership of patents and the substitution of collective ownership, with direct rewards to inventors by premiums or royalties.

COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP.

1. The collective ownership and democratic management of railroads, telegraphs and telephones, express service, steamboat lines

and all other social means of transportation and communication and of all large-scale industries.

2. The immediate acquirement by the municipalities, the states or the federal government, of all grain elevators, stock yards, storage warehouses and other distributing agencies, in order to relieve the farmer from the extortionate charges of the middlemen and to reduce the present high cost of living.

3. The extension of the public domain to include mines, quarries, oil wells, forests and water power.

4. The further conservation and development of natural resources for the use and benefit of all the people:

- (a) By scientific forestation and timber protection.

- (b) By the reclamation of arid and swamp tracts.

- (c) By the storage of flood waters and the utilization of water power.

- (d) By the stoppage of the present extravagant waste of the soil and the products of mines and oil wells.

- (e) By the development of highway and waterway systems.

5. The collective ownership of land wherever practicable, and in cases where such ownership is impracticable, the appropriation by taxation of the annual rental value of all land held for speculation or exploitation.

6. All currency shall be issued by the Government of the United States and shall be legal tender for the payment of taxes and impost duties and for the discharge of public and private debts. The Government shall lend money on bonds to counties and municipalities at a nominal rate of interest for the purpose of taking over or establishing public utilities and for building or maintaining public roads and highways, and public schools—up to 25 per cent of the assessed valuation of such counties or municipalities.

7. Government relief of the unemployed by the extension of all useful public works. All persons employed on such work to be engaged directly by the government under a work day of not more than eight hours and at not less than the prevailing union wages. The Government also to establish employment bureaus; to lend money to States and municipalities without interest for the purpose of carrying on public works, to contribute money to unemployment funds of labor unions and other organizations of workers, and to take such other measures within its power as will lessen the wide spread misery of the workers caused by the misrule of the capitalist class.

INDUSTRIAL DEMANDS.

The conservation of human resources, particularly of the lives and well-being of the workers and their families:

1. By shortening the work day in keeping with the increased productiveness of machinery.

2. By securing the freedom of political and economic organization and activities.

3. By securing to every worker a rest period of not less than a day and a half in each week.

4. By securing a more effective inspection of workshops, factories and mines.

5. By forbidding the employment of children under eighteen years of age.

6. By forbidding the interstate transportation of the products of child labor and of all uninspected factories and mines.

7. By establishing minimum wage scales.

8. By abolishing official charity and substituting a non-contributory system of old age pensions, a general system of insurance by the state of all its members against unemployment and invalidism, and a system of compulsory insurance by employers of their workers, without cost to the latter, against industrial diseases, accidents and death.

9. By establishing mothers' pensions.

Slowly and steadily the minority or anti-war section of the French Socialist party is cutting into the strength of the majority wing. At the recent congress of the Federation of the Seine (Paris), the largest unit in the French organization, on a test resolution to continue to support the war policy of the government (with three Socialists, Guesde, Semper and Thomas, in the Cabinet), the vote was 5,276 for and 4,907 against. When it is considered that at last December's meeting the vote was 6,000 for the government policy and 3,800 opposed, and at the April session 5,500 for and 4,100 against, it can be readily seen how the wind is blowing. The debates that have occurred in these sessions have been extremely bitter at times.

The obituary of capitalism will be, R. I. P.—Requiescat in pace, Rent, Interest and Profit.

TWO NEW LEAFLETS Just Off The Press

1. "WHAT WE HAVE AND WHAT WE WANT", by Vice-Presidential Candidate, George R. Kirkpatrick.—A new, four page leaflet.

2. "A HORSE POWER SYSTEM", by John M. Work.—A farmers leaflet. Puts socialism in the farmers native tongue so he can grasp it. Just the thing to use in agricultural districts. Price, per hundred 20 cents; per thousand \$1.50, prepaid.

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